

A N  
ANSWER  
TO THE  
OBSERVATIONS  
ON THE  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
*Anglesey* ELECTION.

*Ingratos ante omnia pone Sodales.* Juv.



L O N D O N:  
Printed, in the YEAR, MDCCXLVIII,

A

T

upon  
*Lom*  
grea  
the  
Frie  
the  
for  
in v  
is a  
Ob  
Frie  
the  
Co  
Ob

A N

## ANSWER, &amp;c.

**T**HERE was lately publish'd in the *St. James's Evening-Post*, an Account of the *Anglesey* Election: And afterwards some Observations upon the said Account were publish'd in the *London Evening-Post*, which tend to reflect greatly on the Character of Mr. M. one of the Candidates for that Election, and his Friends. And since that, the Publisher of the Account has been made to ask Pardon for Publishing it; and to declare his Sorrow in very impertinent Terms. The Account is a plain Narrative of Matters of Fact: The Observations passionate, and abusive. The Friends of Mr. M. in Vindication of his and their Characters, still apply to an impartial Consideration of that Narrative, and of the Observations lately publish'd upon it; which

*Owen Meyrick  
Esq of Bodor  
in Anglesey*

for the Convenience of the present Purpose  
we have collected together :

*An Account of the Anglesey Election.*

ON the 16th of *July* came on the Election of a Knight of the Shire for the County of *Anglesey*, when Sir *Nicholas Bailey* was chose without Opposition : The other Candidate, *Owen Meyrick*, jun. Esq; having declin'd standing a Poll, because *John Owen*, Esq; the late Member deserted and turn'd against him two Days before the Election, contrary to the most solemn Engagement, after he had been admitted into all Mr. *Meyrick's* Secrets in Canvassing. It is to be observ'd, that in the former Election 1741, there was a Compromise enter'd into between Mr. *Owen* and Mr. *Meyrick*, by which it was agreed that in Case Mr. *Meyrick* would join Mr. *Owen* at that Time, he, Mr. *Owen*, was to give Mr. *Meyrick* his Vote and Interest at the ensuing Election : Mr. *Meyrick* honourably perform'd his Promise, whereby Mr. *Owen* carried his Election ; which, without Mr. *Meyrick's* Assistance he could not possibly have done : But Mr. *Owen* receded from his Engagement. His Pretence for so doing was, that a Friend of Mr. *Meyrick's* had made a Proposal of a Compromise to Sir *Nicholas*, and that without the Privity of Mr. *Meyrick* or his Father, who as soon as he was appriz'd of the Affair, sent Notice to  
Mr.

*John Owen Esq;  
of Pwllheli  
Anglesey*

Mr. *Owen* to attend at a Meeting desir'd by Sir *Nicholas* in Consequence of the Proposal : Sir *Nicholas* and his Friends did consent that Mr. *Meyrick* should have a quiet Election, but Mr. *Owen* instead of coming to the Meeting, went late the same Night to Lord *Bulkley*, and made a Tender of his Interest to Sir *Nicholas*, who, together with his Friends thought fit to accept of the Proposal made by Mr. *Owen*, and to disregard the Engagement enter'd into the Day before, which was calculated by the first Proposer of it only to promote Peace and Unanimity in the County.

Was Mr. *Meyrick* under any Engagement not to dispose of his Interest for any Time to come to Sir *Nicholas Bailey*, or any other Person ? He was not. If so, what Affront was it to Mr. *Owen*, if Mr. *Meyrick* could prevail upon his Opponent to suffer him to be elected without Opposition ? This being the Case what Character Mr. *Owen* in particular deserves, for his so dishonourably and ungratefully departing from so solemn an Engagement to Mr. *Meyrick*, let the World determine.

*The Observations on the Account of the Anglesey Election.*

*Servabit Odorem.*

**M**R. O. in Consequence of his Promise, to support Mr. *M*'s Interest at the said Election,

Election, appeals to the whole County, with how much Zeal and Activity he exerted himself on the Occasion ; by his vigorous Assistance a clear Majority was secur'd, and Mr. M's Success appear'd indisputable. But the favourite Principle must prevail, and be inseparable from the Actions of certain Persons : Open, undisguis'd, and direct Measures, can never agree with the delicate Constitution of the Intriguing, the Subtle, and the Designing.

To exercise their Skill and Dexterity in Negotiating, &c. the *Machiavel* of the Family, that *important Person*, whose Conduct has, for many Years, so *signally* contributed to the Peace and Unanimity of his Country, stole away to the adverse Party, to propose a Compromise, without giving Mr. O. the least Hint of his Design.

His Proposals having been accepted, a Day of Meeting ~~having been~~ appointed, and an Agreement drawn ; by the Terms of which, Mr. O. and all his Friends, were to be excluded from a Seat in Parliament for fourteen Years.

On this Day of Meeting (later than the Hour fix'd for it) a formal Message was sent to Mr. O. to offer him the Favour of being a Party to their Agreement, if he pleas'd ; in Answer to which, Mr. O. instantly wrote the following Letter to Mr. M.

“ Dear

" *Dear Sir,*

" This Moment I receiv'd the Inclos'd,  
 " which has surpris'd me much, that any  
 " Proposal should be clandestinely made with-  
 " out my Privity, since I have given incon-  
 " testible Proofs of my Zeal and Sincerity in  
 " your Favour: Whatever my Thoughts  
 " might have been, had I been decently us'd,  
 " I shall now dissent to any Proposal that can  
 " be made by Way of Compromise; and I  
 " hope you'll acquaint me with the Issue and  
 " Result of your Meeting.

" I am, &c."

Can Mr. *M.* deny all this? Was there any Notice taken of this Letter? Did he not proceed without the least Scruple or Regard to either Honour or Friendship? But an Objection being unluckily started, their reciprocal signing of the Articles was put off 'till next Morning.

Mr. *O.* having had Intelligence of all that was agreed upon, thought he had no Time to lose. Pray, what was he to do? Was he to sit down quietly and suffer himself and his Friends to be sacrificed to selfish and private Views? Was he to consider himself as an implicit Drudge, a servile Tool to be laid aside or made use of as their Purposes requir'd? Could any Promise bind him to stand by and support a Person that not only treated him with so much Contempt, but betray'd him  
 with

with so little Hesitation? Was he not to shew a proper Resentment, and assert the natural Rights and Privileges of his Country, himself and his Friends?

A Man that has cut his own Throat has no Right to cry out, Murder! Had Mr. O. been the Aggressor, or shewn the least Marks of Insincerity during the whole Time of Canvassing, Mr. M's Conduct would have been excusable.

The Writer of the Paragraph in the Evening-Post appeals to the World as to the Character that Mr. O. will deserve on this Occasion, Mr. M. can't be more desirous than Mr. O. is of appealing to the World in Point of Character on this and all other Occasions, and of leaving the whole Matter in Dispute to depend upon that single Issue.

---

*The Answer to the Observations*

The Reader may observe, that the Facts alledged in the Account are not contradicted by the Writer of the Observations, and therefore we presume they are allowed to be true.

Mr. O. then confesses that he broke the Conditions on which he had received a Consideration; and to excuse himself, he publishes his Letter to Mr. M. declaring he would not be a Party to any Compromise that could be proposed, because he had not been decently used, &c.

Now

Now we allow that Mr. O. was at Liberty with Honour to refuse being a Party to any future Compromise, and to oppose Mr. M. or his Interest in any Election after this, whether he had been decently used, or not ; and therefore his Letter was little to the Purpose.

But how came he to ruin the Election he was bound to support ; and which could not be expected from any Part of his Letter ? Because he was not decently used. “ Could any  
“ Promise (says the Writer of the *Observa-*  
“ *tions*) bind him to stand by and support a  
“ Person who not only treated him with so  
“ much Contempt, but betrayed him with  
“ so little Hesitation ? ”

A dangerous Doctrine ! all Men will judge for themselves ; some well, and some ill : Shall we allow so great a Liberty ? Shall Performance of Agreements, Honour, Ho-  
nesty, and Justice depend on every Man's Humour ? But to shew the Absurdity of his Question, let us consider the double Charge contained in it.

How was Mr. O. used with Contempt by Mr. M ?—Because a Proposal for a Compromise was made without his Privy ; and in not being sooner acquainted with the Meeting desired by Mr. M's Opponent. Could Mr. M. have acquainted him sooner with either ? By the above-mentioned Account it

is evident he could not : The Writer of the *Observations* does not contradict, but seems to have overlook'd that Assertion ; which (as he thought a Breach of the strictest Promise and Engagement was to be vindicated thereby) ought most evidently to have been disproved. It is just and impartial therefore to conclude, that Mr. M. could not have acquainted Mr. O. sooner with the Meeting, &c. than he did ; and therefore that he did not thereby use him with Contempt.

How was Mr. O. betrayed ? By an intended Compromise, says he : He and his Friends were to be excluded from a Seat in Parliament for fourteen Years. But in the first Place that cannot be true, unless he intended all along to deprive Mr. M. of a Seat in the present Parliament : Because, otherwise he was excluded the first seven Years of the fourteen he means, in Consequence of his own Compromise with Mr. M. in 1741. In the second Place, no Man is prevented by a Compromise, to which he is not a Party, from offering himself a Candidate : By his Opponent's being strengthened he may lose his Election ; but unless his Opponent be strengthened by some Interest, which had before been promised to him, he is not betrayed.

The Writer of the *Observations* talks of Mr. M's having no Regard to Honour or Friendship : These are Words ; but in  
what

what Instance has he transgressed against either? The Writer does not in the least Degree accuse Mr. *M.* of a Breach of Promise, which doubtless he ought and would have done if he could; and therefore it is again just and impartial to conclude, and it is true, that Mr. *M.* was under no Promise or Engagement whatever to Mr. *O.* beyond his Compromised Election in 1741; (in which Mr. *M.* performed his Part honourably and effectually) and therefore Mr. *M.* did not betray Mr. *O.* in openly promising his Vote and Interest for a future Election to another; but was undoubtedly at Liberty so to do without Mr. *O.*'s Consent or Approbation.

And farther, before Mr. *M.* or Mr. *O.* came into *Anglesey*, there was a Meeting of some Gentlemen to consider which of the two Candidates to espouse, at which Mr. *M.*'s Father thinking his Son's Election doubtful, proposed a Compromise without the Privy of his Son or Mr. *O.* which was not then accepted of: Now we ask, Is it not surprising, that when Mr. *O.* was acquainted with what had passed, he should express no Dislike (for positively he did not) to the Step Mr. *M.*'s Father took at that Meeting, when a Compromise was actually proposed without his Consent or Knowledge? and be so extremely provoked afterward, when a Proposal was made, which could end only in a Meeting to consider of a Compromise; and though he

was invited to that Meeting as soon as either of the Mr. *M*'s knew of it, and the Distance of their Houses would permit? The first Proposal was made by a Person who had Power then to make the Compromise; the latter by a Person, who, in this Case, had not the Power to conclude any Thing. It is then evident, if the first Proposal would not have betray'd Mr. *O*. (and he did not seem to think it would) the second could not have done so.

In short then, the Votes expected by the Interest of Mr. *O*. in this Election would have been far short of the Number Mr. *M*. brought for him in 1741, two of Mr. *O*'s principal Friends and Parties to that Compromise being dead. By these Accidents Mr. *M*'s Election became somewhat doubtful. Mr. *O*. came to the Country about three Weeks before the last Election; and notwithstanding the Proposal made by Mr. *M*'s Father, seem'd then to behave in canvassing as he was in Honour bound to do: But we knew nothing of his having gain'd a clear Majority of Voices for Mr. *M*. for who can believe that a Man of common Sense knowing he had a clear Majority (that is a certain Election) would accept of a Compromise? On the contrary, even within three Days of the Election, the utmost Hope of Mr. *M*. amounted only to a Majority of a very few Voices; and whoever knows any thing of Elections, must

must hold such a Majority very doubtful. In this Situation, and while Mr. *M.* thought of nothing but a Poll, the Gentleman mention'd in that opprobrious Manner by the Name of *Machiavel*, took the Liberty to make a Proposal in the sudden Manner before-mention'd; and as there was but very little Time, the other Candidate desired a Meeting immediately. Mr. *M.* chose to accept a sure and quiet Election upon reasonable Terms proposed by the other Candidate, and agreed to by all the Gentlemen present at the Meeting, as well as some others, tho' departed from, the next Morning at Mr. *O's* Instance: And tho' the Time of Notice was short, Mr. *O.* might have been at the Meeting very soon after Mr. *M.* because he writ his Letter, and his Servant deliver'd it to Mr. *M.* soon after his coming to the Place appointed, and before the other Gentlemen met; and immediately upon their Arrival Mr. *O's* own Servant acquainted all the Gentlemen there present, that his Master would agree to no Proposal that could be made by way of Compromise; and though it is said there was no Notice taken of the Letter, Mr. *M.* went immediately to acquaint Mr. *O.* with what had passed, as he desired in his Letter, and met Mr. *O.* on the Road going to offer his Vote and Interest against him, before he knew whether a Compromise was agreed to or not; and concealing his Intention with a Smile, parted from Mr. *M.* with the usual Compliments; having first assured

assured him, he did not believe that he knew of the Proposal, or the Meeting sooner than he said he did.

We have wondered since that so great a Lover of open and undisguised Measures, and so great a Hater of Intrigue and Design should smile upon any Man, when (to use his own Expression) he was going to cut his Throat ; and why he had not acquainted Mr. M. in his Letter with his Purpose of deserting him, if he accepted of a Compromise.

This Gentleman then came into Parliament in 1741, by a compromised Election, and is the first who is remember'd in this County to have used these Means ; and consequently to secure his own Election was willing that all the Gentlemen in the County, but himself and one more, should be excluded from a Seat in Parliament for 14 Years : But when he was likely to be excluded only for seven more than what he chose to be, says, he is sacrificed to private and selfish Views, and even talks of asserting the Rights and Privileges of his Country. From hence it is reasonable to conclude, either that Mr. O. does not think himself sacrificed, or that he sacrificed the whole County to his own Views in 1741.

This Aspersions of private and selfish Views may as well be thrown on any Gentleman

man who is Candidate for such an Election as Mr. *M.* His View was a Seat in the House of Commons, and that professedly independent of the Frowns or Favours of any Party.

We apprehend it does now appear that in Fact Mr. *O.* was neither contemned or betrayed; and until that Gentleman can shew wherein he and his Friends were to be sacrificed to private and selfish Views, wherein he has been treated with Contempt and betrayed, or that Mr. *M.*'s Engagements with him subsisted after his last Election, and that he ought not to dispose of his Vote and Interest, by Compromise or otherwise, whenever and wherever he pleased, We shall take the Liberty to think that Mr. *O.* strain'd for a Pretence to act the Part he had before intended by Mr. *M.* at the most convenient Opportunity. It is difficult to believe that a Gentleman of good Understanding can think, that no Promise or Agreement is binding to a Man who fancies himself used with Contempt; and we are sorry Mr. *O.* should profess himself to have acted on a Principle so ill grounded, and so destructive to Society.

We hope in Consequence of what has been said, that all those unhandsome Reflections published against Mr. *M.* and his Friends in several News-Papers, will be thought very unreasonable. We declare we do not know what is meant by the Favourite Principle which

which must prevail, unless it is that of a steady Attachment to the present Establishment: This is known in *Anglesey* to have been the Principle of that Family for many Years; and if Mr. O. had not professed the same, he never would have had a Seat in Parliament by their Assistance.

It was now become necessary for the Character of Mr. M. and his Friends that thus much should be said. It is hoped there is not an abusive Word made use of herein, (except in a Repetition of the *Observations*) Truth needs not such; and if Matters of Fact reflect on any Man's Character we are sorry for it.

F I N I S.

